

TOWN OF WATERFORD INCORPORATION (FROM THE WATERFORD TOWN BOARD)

Our Town is in the midst of the incorporation process and it is important that residents stay informed during the process. We have created this document to help you understand what incorporation would mean for our town, what it entails, and why we are pursuing the effort. The following FAQ's have been put together for your benefit. We hope this will help you in your quest for information as this is only the beginning. As more information becomes available and developments occur, it will be displayed on our website.

WHEN DID THE INCORPORATION PROCESS BEGIN?

As you may or may not know, the Town of Waterford initiated the process to incorporate. Here's some background.

The board felt it needed to protect the constituents of the Town of Waterford and started the process for incorporation.

The board, on June 25th, held a meeting that was duly noticed and posted, whereby they approved a resolution indicating that the Town would file a Notice of Intent to Circulate a Petition that would begin the process of incorporation. This notice ran in the Journal Times on July 5, 2019 and circulation of the petitions began July 16, 2019. The petition was required to have 50 signatures. We received over 600. All signatures were verified to ensure that person owns property in the Town of Waterford.

Incorporation does not happen overnight and if approved on the State level will ultimately come back to the Town for a referendum. In the end **residents will determine** whether or not they wish to incorporate. (Under "Incorporation" is a flow chart of the municipal incorporation process.)

Now, why would we want to incorporate?

WHY IS THE TOWN OF WATERFORD SEEKING INCORPORATION?

- Protect from annexations
- Protect our tax base
- Affords us control over our destiny and boundaries
- Save Town residents from absorbing debt from neighboring Village
- Preserve integrity and character of our town

Most residents agree, we love our small town charm. By maintaining control and directing our own growth as we see fit, we can meet future needs while keeping the character of our town intact.

- Greater Revenue Opportunities-More access to federal, state and local aid and grants
- More local control over zoning approval processes
- Negotiate agreements with neighboring communities as equals

WHAT WOULD THE VILLAGE OF TICHIGAN LOOK AND ACT LIKE?

- We will continue to provide all of the services you have come to expect-police, fire and rescue and public works, while continuing our conservative approach regarding budgeting.
- All current ordinances would remain in place unless/until they are altered or repealed, unless specifically contrary to State Statutes.
- Town Board structure would most likely stay the same in order to stay within an acceptable budget. Essentially, residents will not notice a difference than what currently exists.

DOES IT HAVE TO BE NAMED THE VILLAGE OF TICHIGAN?

- No. A name needed to be placed on the initial paperwork and Village of Tichigan was chosen because Tichigan Lake is the gem of our community and it is what brings all ends of our community together. A different name may be chosen by vote if so desired.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED WITH INCORPORATION?

- It is important to remember that although there is a price tag for incorporation, we feel the benefits greatly outweigh the cost. We are looking to secure our Town's borders and character for generations to come. Although there are costs involved, these costs are not expected to create any significant changes to our current budget. Remember, Town residents approve the levy every year and the Town Board works within that levy.
- Although it is not possible to project an exact figure of costs because of variables such as attorney fees, we do know the following:
 1. \$350 filing fee
 2. \$25,000 Board of Review fee (nonrefundable)
 3. Attorney fees
 4. Consultant fees
 5. Some costs associated with change of signage and letterhead
- Again, it is the Town Boards duty to work within the constraints of the levy, which is set by residents at the annual Special Meeting of the Town Electors. We have been financially responsible for many years, the Town is currently debt free and we will continue to maintain services, keep taxes low and be responsible in spending.

DO TOWN RESIDENTS HAVE A SAY?

- Yes. Approximately 600 residents signed the petition. If our effort passes the Dept. of Administration Board of Review, we will hold a public hearing. Information will be

available on our website as well as any questions and answers from the residents which can be found there as well. From there, it will go to referendum for all residents to vote. **Town residents will make the final decision.**

WHAT'S NEXT?

Racine Circuit Court, on May 22, 2020, found that we met the requirements to move forward.

We may now do any of the following;

1. Meet with Village of Waterford to try to negotiate an acceptable boundary agreement
2. Request the Department of Administration assist with mediating a boundary agreement with the Village of Waterford.
3. Continue on to the path of Incorporation by paying the \$25,000 fee and taking it to the Dept. of Administration Board of Review. Included in this process is updating zoning maps within the Town, developing boundary agreements with Dover, Rochester, East Troy, Vernon and Norway and more...

WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED HERE WITH ANY AND ALL UPDATES!